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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

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ACTION WHA-00

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| INFO | LOG-00 | NP-00 | AID-00 | ACQ-00 | COME-00 | INL-00 | DINT-00 |
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| | VCE-00 | AC-01 | NSAE-00 | NSF-01 | OES-01 | OIC-02 | OMB-01 |
| | PA-00 | PM-00 | PRS-00 | ACE-00 | P-00 | SP-00 | SSO-00 |
| | SS-00 | TRSE-00 | T-00 | USIE-00 | R-00 | EPAE-00 | PMB-00 |
| | DSCC-00 | DRL-02 | G-00 | NFAT-00 | SAS-00 | /009W | |
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8414
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 003803

NSC FOR MAISTO; WHA FOR STRUBLE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/16/2007
TAGS: PREL, MX, VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR IN MEXICO CITES U.S. AS
BEHIND CURRENT INSTABILITY

CLASSIFIED BY DEP. POLCOUNS JDFEELEY, REASONS 1.5 (B) & (D)

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1. (U) SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO PRESS SOURCES, VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO, LINO MARTINEZ SALAZAR, STATED IN A MAY 15 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT COUP PLOTTERS IN VENEZUELA REMAIN A LATENT THREAT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO OFFICE AFTER THE ABORTED COUP ATTEMPT OF LAST APRIL. MARTINEZ ALSO ALLEGED THAT CHAVEZ HAD UPSET THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE HIS BEHAVIOR AS PRESIDENT HAD "NEITHER BEEN SUBMISSIVE NOR DOCILE" WITH RESPECT TO THE U.S.-VENEZUELAN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. HE FURTHER CLAIMED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS BEHIND THE CONTINUING INSTABILITY IN CARACAS. AMBASSADOR MARTINEZ DENIED THAT HE WAS ACTING ON ORDERS FROM CARACAS AND CLAIMED A LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP HAD CONCEIVED OF AND ORGANIZED THE PRESS EVENT. END SUMMARY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ALAN H FLANIGAN
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 15 MAY 2022
DATE/CASE ID: 18 JUN 2007 200504156

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2. (U) DURING A MAY 15 PRESS CONFERENCE CONVOKED BY THE MEXICAN COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, AMBASSADOR MARTINEZ UNDERScoreD THAT DESPITE THE APPARENT FAILURE TO WREST POWER FROM PRESIDENT CHAVEZ, THE ORGANIZATION OF THE APRIL COUP PLOTTERS REMAINS VERY MUCH INTACT, DESPITE A FEW CASES OF HOUSE ARREST OR JUDICIAL DETENTION. MARTINEZ AVERRED THAT THESE GROUPS OF ANTI-CHAVEZ MILITANTS STILL ACTIVELY SEEK THE PRESIDENT'S REMOVAL FROM POWER AND HE AFFIRMED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS BEHIND THE CURRENT POLITICAL INSTABILITY, SINCE "(THE U.S.) IS STIMULATING AND FOMENTING THEIR ACTIONS, AND I DO NOT DOUBT THAT (THE U.S.) MIGHT BE WILLING TO PUT ITS MILITARY FORCE AT THE DISPOSITION OF THESE OPPOSITION GROUPS." THE VENEZUELAN ENVOY ALSO CLAIMED THAT PRESIDENT CHAVEZ HAD ORIGINALLY UPSET THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE HE HAD NOT CONDUCTED HIMSELF IN A SUBSERVIENT OR DOCILE MANNER WITH REGARD TO WASHINGTON. PER MARTINEZ, HISTORICALLY MANY GOVERNMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA,

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INCLUDING VENEZUELA, HAD BEEN SUBMISSIVE BEFORE THE UNITED STATES. CHAVEZ BROKE WITH THIS TENDENCY, NOT BECAUSE HE IS OR WISHES TO BE AN ENEMY OF THE U.S., BUT RATHER BECAUSE HE "SEEKS GOOD RELATIONS BASED ON SOVEREIGNTY, AUTONOMY AND FULL FREEDOM TO DECIDE WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF VENEZUELA." WHEN PRESSED TO GIVE EXAMPLES OF OTHER LATIN GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE SUBMISSIVE IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, MARTINEZ DECLINED TO BE SPECIFIC, COMMENTING ONLY THAT, "EXAMPLES ABOUND, THERE'S NO NEED TO PICK OUT ONE."

3. (U) MARTINEZ STATED THAT U.S. DISPLEASURE WITH THE GOV IS WELL AND PUBLICLY KNOWN, INCLUDING STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN POWELL MANIFESTING HIS CONCERN FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH CHAVEZ IS GOVERNING VENEZUELA. HE FURTHER SAID THAT THE ORIGIN OF U.S. PIQUE WITH CHAVEZ STEMS FROM THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO BOOST OIL PRICES, WHICH WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE U.S. ECONOMY. ACCORDING TO MARTINEZ, PRESIDENT CHAVEZ HAS ALSO DEMONSTRATED THAT THERE IS ANOTHER VIABLE MODEL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS DISTINCT FROM THE U.S. MODEL, AND HE HAS SUCCEEDED IN UNMASKING NEO-LIBERALISM, BOTH FACTORS WHICH HAVE ENGENDERED WASHINGTON'S IRE TOWARD CARACAS. FINALLY, MARTINEZ STATED THAT THE GOV HAD NOT DONE A PARTICULARLY GOOD JOB AT GETTING ITS MESSAGE OUT AND ADMITTED THAT THE CHAVEZ ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE TO DEVELOP THE MEANS AND MECHANISMS FOR COMMUNICATING ITS POLICIES WITHOUT RELYING SO HEAVILY ON THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF FOR ITS PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPOSURE.

4. (C) [REDACTED]

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5. (C) COMMENT:

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